

Buller's Scouting.

Shows That Boers Command Every Fordable Position Along the Tugela.

But New Trenches Not Revealed and Preliminary Battles Probable.

London Gratified at New Proof of Strength of Ladysmith Garrison.

New York, Jan. 7.—Reviewing the South African situation under Sunday morning's date, the London correspondent of the Tribune says:

"Gen. Buller's army was in readiness to move upon the enemy's works yesterday, after systematic scouting all along the line from Springfield to Hlangwana. There were found two strongly fortified positions south of the Tugela, at each end of the defensive line, covering 10 miles on the opposite bank, with guns commanding every fordable place."

"The Springfield district had been explored by scouts early, but there was a reconnaissance in force Friday afternoon toward Hlangwana by a strong force of cavalry and riflemen, with two guns. There was shell firing from the naval guns behind Lord Dunsford's cavalry, and various attempts were made to draw the enemy's fire, but in the end the troops returned to camp without having learned where the new trenches had been laid."

"The lesson of the first battle at Colenso and subsequent futile reconnaissances and military practice was that one engagement was necessary in order to ascertain where the enemy was, and that a series of battles, one after another in quick succession, might be required for the relief of Ladysmith. The Springfield district could not be left in the enemy's possession, if any turning movement were attempted above Colenso, and in any attack at the centre Hlangwana could not be passed over or masked."

"There was still another alternative plan, that of conducting a turning movement nineteen miles east of Colenso by the Weenen road to Ladysmith. But this seemed like a desperate undertaking, with Hlangwana strongly held by the enemy, and the east bank of the Tugela river, and the three miles of the ruined railway bridge."

"While the loungers at the clubs were discussing the probabilities of the situation last night and settling down to the conclusion that the first shot would be the signal for several days of desperate fighting, but that Gen. Buller would wait for another battery and another regiment of Hussars and not order the advance until Monday, the war office cleared the field of action for at least twenty-four hours by posting a short bulletin."

"It was from Gen. Buller at Camp Frere and contained a message from Gen. White, stating that the Boers had attacked Ladysmith in considerable force toward 3 o'clock on Sunday morning. While Gen. Buller was waiting for a few more guns and mounted troops, or possibly for the water to fall a little lower in the Tugela, or for the mule train to be put in better order, Gen. Joubert had attempted to surprise the garrison by a night sortie, and a spirited attack had been made. The Boers were everywhere repulsed, but the fighting was still in progress at 9 o'clock. The story was only half told by the heliograph, for the retirement of the Boers was not announced, but so far as it went it had the right ring for British ears. White's men were holding their own and fighting gallantly, after a long siege. They had not been taken by surprise, and even with their supply of ammunition, which there has been good reason to believe was failing, they had repulsed this belated attack in force. It was an inspiring story, which brought a fine glow of enthusiasm to every Englishman's heart."

"The war office had neither explanations nor comments to offer, and kept what information it had received from Gen. Buller respecting his own plans a close secret. It was an easy inference that Gen. Joubert, being well informed by his own scouts respecting Buller's military tactics, had taken advantage of a final opportunity for a desperate attempt to carry Ladysmith with its fever hospital by assault before the great battle of Tugela could be fought. Possibly he had also hoped to entrap a part of the garrison outside and capture a few more horses and mules, and had intended to be shot. The fellow was marched to his own grave. He was stood over it, and then there were twelve soldiers marched out, who had to pick up rifles out of a group of twelve. There were six of those loaded and six unloaded, so none of the men knew who shot him. It was all over in a few minutes."

A corporal of the Seaforth Highlanders was taken prisoner by the Boers, who took away his rifle and kept him in the trenches in charge of one of their comrades. When the others retired from the trenches, the corporal, from the rifle in the hands of the Boer, stabbed him and escaped to the British lines. There are districts in Queensland where the Germans form 90 per cent. of the population, and are pro-Boer to a degree. Their parents and their best to inflame them against British rule.

TRIALS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

Evidence of the Fearful Heat in Which Fierce Battles Have Been Fought.

London, Dec. 30.—In the pen pictures of the war by Associated Press correspondents occurs the following:

"The men were standing around the engines on the line offering the drivers fabulous prices for a cup of water," writes the Globe correspondent, describing the close of the battle at Enslin, "but it was useless. The drivers had been threatened with court martial if they supplied any, as there was great difficulty in keeping an antiseptic supply for the engines. I saw one soldier flat on the line under an engine, catching a few drops in his mouth from a steam pipe."

Such extracts as this from the descriptions of the fighting in South Africa show some faint idea of the conditions under which it is being carried on. Related as these letters are by the time they appear in English papers, they throw much needed light upon the campaign severely reported over censored cables. The heat that drove British soldiers to drink gratefully from the exhaust pipe of an engine after seven hours' fighting at Enslin, where they lost 179 killed or wounded, has proved a serious factor in the care of the wounded.

The Law of Contraband

Oxford Professor States Principles Which Are Probably Governing British.

Foodstuffs Merely Pre-empted But Carriage of Soldiers Brings Confiscation.

London, Jan. 7.—The most authoritative English deliverance yet made on the question of international law involved in the seizures in Delagoa Bay is in the statement just issued by Prof. A. E. Holland, of Oxford university, who prepared the admiralty manual of the law of prizes. It is highly probable the legal argument will act in the spirit of Prof. Holland's utterances. He writes:

"Of four inconveniences to which neutral trading vessels are liable in time of war, the blockade may be left out of specially considerations. You can only blockade ports of your enemy, and the South African republics have no port of their own."

"Three other inconveniences must, however, all be endured, viz.: Prohibition to carry contraband goods, prohibition to engage in the enemy's service, and liability to be visited and searched."

"Each of these requirements has given rise to wide divergence of views and to divergent literature. While Continental opinion and practice favor a hard and fast list of contraband articles, comprising only such as are already suited or can readily be adapted for use in operations of war, English and American opinion and practice favor a longer list and one capable of being from time to time extended to meet special exigencies of war. In such a list may figure even provisions, under circumstances arising out of the peculiar situation of war, especially if going with a highly probable destination to military use."

"It would be in accordance with our own previous practice and with Lord Granville's despatches during the war between France and China in 1885 if we treated flour as contraband, and as such one capable of being from time to time extended to meet special exigencies of war. In such a list may figure even provisions, under circumstances arising out of the peculiar situation of war, especially if going with a highly probable destination to military use."

"As to continuous carriage by neutral ships of enemy's troops, or of even a few military officers, as also of enemy's despatches, this is to an enemy service of so important a kind as to involve confiscation of the vessel concerned. In circumstances, is not imposed upon carriage of contraband property so called."

BRUTALITY OF OFFICERS.

Reichstag to Investigate Grave Charges Against Germans on African Service.

Berlin, Jan. 7.—It is said that a worse case than that of Prince Arndberg, charged with killing a subordinate in South Africa, will be brought up in the Reichstag. It is said that a subordinate of a German officer, while on duty, shot and killed a British soldier. The case will be brought up in the Reichstag soon.

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES.

It must be understood that there is nowhere a people more capable of self-government than the better element of the South African white colonists, nor any more determined to secure the ends of freedom, justice and equality for all the white races. They would be intolerant of oppression under one national dominion as under another, and sheer force of numbers and moral power would eventually overthrow any tyranny or any influence obstructive to the best governmental ideas and administration. Mr. Hammond declines to discuss the political aspects of the present situation, but the future points to an African federation of self-governing states. Imperially connected, probably with the British throne, but with the largest measure of freedom. Any attempt at coercion from without would be more quickly and more vigorously resisted than even the oppression of a domestic oligarchy.—Charles R. Goring, interviewing John Hays Hammond, in The Engineering Magazine for January.

There are districts in Queensland where the Germans form 90 per cent. of the population, and are pro-Boer to a degree. Their parents and their best to inflame them against British rule.

Must Take Delagoa

British Would Find This Simpler Than Interference With Neutrals' Trade.

Belief That Bargain with Portugal Will Soon Be Published to the World.

Russia Checked by Japan and No Other Power Likely to Interfere.

New York, Jan. 7.—"No responsible person talks now of European intervention in the Anglo-Boer war," says the London correspondent of the Evening Post, "but the embarrassing condition of things at Delagoa Bay is the gravest cause of anxiety in official quarters here and in Berlin. Delagoa Bay, indeed, has become the key of the European situation, and ridiculous at first sight though the assertion may seem, the issues of European peace or war lie very largely at this moment with little far-off Japan."

"Lord Salisbury, peace minister as he is, has refrained as long as he possibly could from throwing this most inflammable question into the European arena, but the British seizures of German and American ships under suspicion of containing contraband of war, have forced his hand. In Germany especially the seizures have excited the normal anti-British feeling to such a point that the Kaiser, ready as he is just now to support England, cannot neglect it."

"The belief in authoritative quarters here is that he will take the former risk and let the public into the long-guarded secret just as soon as certain details have been arranged with Portugal. For that purpose a high British diplomat, an official in whose hands this matter has largely rested for several years, left London on Friday of last week and is still at Lisbon. Unless, therefore, an entirely new aspect is given to the question, it is probable that before the prize court at Durban has given judgment on the seizures, England will be in the throes of a Delagoa Bay crisis. That at least is the present expectation in English official circles."

"I asked my authority what in diplomatic circles was expected to be the result of this move in Europe. He said that it was understood that France, anticipating such an Anglo-German step, had come to an arrangement with Spain by which France should claim Ceuta as a prize of her complete victory. If, of course," he said, "it is absolutely impossible unless we mean to make Gibraltar and Malta of no effect, and hand over our highway to India, which of course we do not mean to do. England must fight rather than yield to such demand."

"And what of Russia? The papers have been suggesting that she has told Lord Salisbury that the future of Delagoa Bay is really no business of hers. 'Oh, does she really say that?' 'That is absolutely untrue,' he says. 'Russia counts on Russia, and if the Franco-Russian alliance is half as effective as a band as France claims, she should not count in vain. Despite all that, and Russia is secure that England is forced by her position in South Africa to run the risk of grave European complications, war will not come. That is the firm belief of those whose opinions count for most in England.'

"Russia, you see, dare not attack England, or even any other European power, now, for Japan is only awaiting such an opportunity of Russian pre-occupation to pounce upon Korea and Port Arthur, which she counts her legitimate spoil from the Chinese-Japanese war. Indeed, high authorities say that a Russo-Japanese conflict must come in any case as soon as the ice melts in the spring. You have read of the recent quiet movements of Russian reinforcements in the Far East. Japan will keep Russia quiet in Europe, and without Russia, France can only crowd. Meanwhile, England, holding Delagoa Bay, has a ring around the Transvaal."

Cabling on the same subject, the London correspondent of the Tribune says: "Lord Salisbury is not embarrassed with much newspaper advice respecting the complications which have arisen over the seizure of German ships and American foodstuffs in Delagoa Bay. When he settles these questions without quarrelling with the two nations whose friendship he has no idea of estranging, the journals will be provided with proper cues and have more to say. There are two essential points which do not, entirely escape observation here. One is that Delagoa Bay cannot be blockaded from a neutral port, and that Portugal ought to be the power to deal with questions of contraband goods and neutral obligations, although British cruisers are relieving the Portuguese officials of this important function. The second, that the direct seizure of Delagoa Bay, with subsequent payment for the territory, will be a more intelligible and practical policy than meddlesome interference with neutral trade and the free export of American breadstuffs, each of which is an important and fundamental British interest."

EARL OF AVA WOUNDED.

London Jan. 7.—According to a private letter, the Earl of Ava, son of the Marquis of Bute and the Duke of Devonshire, was wounded in the thigh during a recent assault on Ladysmith.

MEAT SCARCE IN GLASGOW.

Disarrangement of Trade Consequent on Taking Atlantic Liners for Transports.

Glasgow, Jan. 7.—There is a great scarcity of fresh meat here owing to the disorganization of the trans-Atlantic trade by the withdrawal of steamships for transport service. No cattle or sheep from the United States have reached Glasgow in a week, and the butchers are unable to supply orders. There is a substantial rise in prices.

London, Jan. 7.—The withdrawal of so many vessels from regular trade channels to act as transports has had a serious effect upon the Liverpool Atlantic traffic. With the exception of the Etruria, which sailed for New York Saturday, the only vessel that has left the Mersey during the week with Atlantic passengers has been the Allan liner Californian for Boston. The stoppage of the White Star mid-week service is most inconvenient.

BOER LOSSES TO FRENCH.

London, Jan. 7.—Gen. French reports that the Boer command which made the attack on January 4 lost 50 killed besides wounded and prisoners. The command was dispersed.

British System Stands the Test.

With Largest Army Ever Put in Field Home Barracks Are Yet Full.

Highly Creditable Application of Elaborate Scheme of Mobilization.

New York, Jan. 7.—Cabling to the Tribune from London regarding the criticisms of the military authorities, Mr. Ford says:

"The indiscriminating fusillade against military officials who are laboring ardently at their posts doing their best, even if some of them blundered and failed to forecast the magnitude of the struggle in South Africa and the unique defensive tactics of the Dutch warriors, is bringing contempt."

"Lord Wolseley, Sir William Butler, Sir John Ardagh and other military men who have been under fire from the black press cannot violate official decorum and defend themselves. They are as full as the barrels of a gun. The kind of warfare is unfair and un-English. The ministers may have made the mistake of working too steadily and delivering too few speeches; certainly there are many things to which they deserve credit for the systematic operation of the mobilization scheme, and old England, pulsating with patriotic ardor, is a long way from being at the end of her military resources."

The largest English army ever put in the field has been carried to the ends of the earth with perfection of system and detail. When the war opened there were 17 infantry battalions in South Africa and 70 at home; there will be at the end of this month, apart from cavalry and artillery, 70 battalions of infantry regulars in the field and 72 in the United Kingdom. This astonishing result has been secured by calling out the reserves, by leaving line men under age at home and by stiffening detachments with militia. There has been no interruption to mining where the war opened, and the third line of defence has hardly been drawn upon."

"If a dozen battalions of Militia have volunteered for foreign service, 50 remain in reserve credit for the systematic operation of the mobilization scheme, and old England, pulsating with patriotic ardor, is a long way from being at the end of her military resources."

AMERICAN WAR TAX.

Failure of Direct to Levy Substantial Charges on Canadian Bound Traffic.

New York, Jan. 6.—Collector Treat received yesterday from the commissioner of Internal Revenue a copy of Attorney-General Griggs' opinion in regard to the taxability of export bills of lading or receipts issued by carriers, covering goods exported from the United States to Canada or Mexico in railroad cars. He holds that they are liable to a 1-cent stamp and not a 10-cent stamp, as contended by the internal revenue department.

SOUTH AFRICA'S GOLD SUPPLY.

The Witwatersrand, according to Mr. Hammond's report to the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Limited, produced in 1898 gold to the value of £15,141,376, being about 25 1/2 per cent. of the total product of the world. If there had been no interruption to mining operation during the year 1899, the output would have exceeded £20,000,000. And it is interesting to note here that this entire output comes almost entirely from a territory lying within a radius of 25 miles from Johannesburg—indeed, 79 per cent. of it is derived from the "central section," stretching from Langlaagte estate to Knight's, a distance of about 12 miles. The vast yield has been attained by continuous rapid increase since 1887, in which year gold to the value of £580,397 was produced. The entire yield since the inception of mining has been £76,270,000. Dr. Hatch, formerly one of Mr. Hammond's assistants, in the Engineering Magazine for August last, estimates that within five years the output from the Witwatersrand fields will reach the enormous figure of £35,000,000 per annum.—Charles B. Goring, interviewing John Hays Hammond, in the Engineering Magazine for January.

Martell's Three Star Brandy is the favorite.

Too Wary For Boers

French Has Cautiously Avoided Pitfalls Set by the Willy Enemy.

Bulldog Tactics and Frontal Assaults Have No Place in His System.

But Mishap to Regimental Commander Makes Prisoners of Seventy Men.

New York, Jan. 7.—The London correspondent of the Tribune says: "Gen. French's official account of Thursday's engagement has confirmed previous press reports without exaggerating the importance of the affair. He allows the correspondents to give their own versions of his manoeuvres and then has the credit himself for modesty for not getting excited over his own exploits."

"It is evident from his report that the Dutch in attacking his position with an inferior force hoped to draw him on toward another position five miles north of Colenso, where they had a stronger body of troops in reserve. The Dutch tactics were the same as in the first battle of the war, when Gen. Symons hit the advance guard, reserves being behind where they could capture the Hussars. French has adapted himself to Dutch tactics, and makes a point of never doing what his enemy expects him to do. He did not attempt to occupy Colenso, but merely waited where there was a chance of holding the enemy there and cutting in behind with a superior force for blocking their retreat by obtaining possession of the two bridges over the Orange river. He is demonstrating that tactical success can be gained without a heavy butchery of the enemy."

"This is a new view of the art of war for the English public, which has been trained for 50 years to regard bulldog tactics and frontal attacks as the highest achievements of military science. If French perseveres in his cautious and effective campaign and without meeting with a reverse, succeeds in opening the way for Lord Roberts into the Free State, he will impart to manoeuvring the virtues of the blessed word 'Mesopotamia.'"

"There were premature rumors from several sources that Colenso had been occupied by French yesterday after a vigorous artillery fire at daybreak and a persistent assault by batteries west of the town."

"The situation at Modder River and in Gatacre's district have not been materially altered by the despatches during the evening."

"Lord Edward Cecil's illness at Mafeking is deplored by Lord Salisbury's friends, who dread the effect of anxiety upon the prime minister, overworked as he is, and confronted with so many embarrassing questions of the neutrality law."

FRENCH HAS A MISHAP

Suffolk Regiment Disorganized on Loss of Colonel and Seventy Men Taken Prisoners

London, Jan. 7.—Gen. French reports a "serious accident" to the First Suffolk Regiment. Four companies, of that regiment attacked a Boer position. Lieut.-Col. Watson, in command, was wounded, and a retreat was ordered. The survivors of the regiment reached their camp, but the others were overpowered and compelled to surrender. Seventy were taken prisoners, including seven officers.

GREELY BADLY HURT.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Gen. A. W. Greely, chief signal officer of the army and the well known Arctic explorer, lies in a serious condition at his home as the result of an assault committed on him to-night by a drunken man named Joseph G. Furnace.

EIGHTH INFANTRY DIVISION.

London, Jan. 8.—The war office has decided upon immediate steps for sending an eighth infantry division to South Africa. Some of the regiments of that division will be taken from Gibraltar and Malta. They will be replaced by militia.

ANOTHER SUSPECT.

Berlin, Jan. 7.—A despatch from Rome says that the British warships Vulcan, Thetis, Astraea and Hebe have received orders to keep watch for a steamer which recently sailed from the British port of South Africa. It is believed she is carrying contraband of war.

DR. MCGLYNN DEAD.

Newburgh, N.Y., Jan. 7.—The Rev. Dr. Edward McGlynn, rector of St. Mary's church, died this afternoon, after an illness of several weeks. Death was due to heart failure, superinduced by Bright's disease.

NAVAL ENGINEERS' PAY.

London, Jan. 6.—Admiral Melville writes to the Globe congratulating it on its efforts to secure higher pay for the naval engineers, saying: "We have had the experience in this country of the loss of some of the very best among the engineers, and the reason that private firms are willing to pay so much higher compensation. I wish your friends every success in the effort to have their pay properly adjusted. I can say as a result of our own experience that a prudent combination with persistent efforts will be rewarded at last."

A BOLD SHIPMENT.

London, Jan. 8.—It is asserted that the customs authorities on the river Thames have detained two outgoing steamers and seized two large guns and six Maxim, packed in piano cases, intended for the Transvaal. It is also said that a quantity of foodstuffs on another vessel have been seized.

Ald. R. T. Williams will be a candidate for Central Ward at the coming municipal election.

Bayonets at Ladysmith Repulsed Boer Assault.

During Heaviest Bombardment Yet Recorded Enemy on Saturday Night Crept Close Up to the Defenders' Lines

Gordon Highlanders and Manchesters Applied Cold Steel and Last Desperate Attack Failed of Success.

Buller Shelled Boers, Withdrawing From Colenso to Ladysmith Assault and Followed with Attack on Exposed Positions.

London, Jan. 8.—A special despatch from Frere Camp, dated Saturday, January 6, 7:20 p.m., says:

"Gen. White heliographs that he defeated the Boers this morning. They crept so close to the defending forces that the Gordon Highlanders and Manchesters actually repulsed them at the point of the bayonet."

A despatch to the Daily Chronicle from Frere Camp says: "Saturday's bombardment of Ladysmith was the heaviest yet recorded. All the heavy guns were working, and the Boers seemed to be pouring in shell from every available gun."

ANXIETY IN LONDON.

London, Jan. 8.—4:50 a.m.—The British public is at last face to face with a critical moment in the campaign. It may safely be said that at no previous time have there been such anxious hours of suspense as will be passed through until the arrival of further news regarding the fate of Ladysmith. The editorials this morning fully reflect the extreme gravity of the situation, with a painful current of ominous foreboding, mainly caused by the fact that, while the Boers have now changed their tactics and assumed the offensive, Gen. Buller is apparently unable to do more to assist Gen. White than in making a demonstration. As the heliograph ceased working yesterday afternoon (Sunday) it is presumed that Gen. White's last message was sent by a pigeon or runner."

JOUBERT'S INSPIRATION.

London, Jan. 8.—A despatch from the Boer camp at Colenso, dated Thursday, sent by way of Lorenzo Marques, mentions that a thunder storm had turned the dry ravines into torrents and flooded the Tugela up. Doubtless Gen. Joubert was sure he had secured a couple of days in which he could attack Ladysmith without interference from Gen. Buller, who, even if he decided to attempt to relieve the town, would probably occupy three days in reaching it even by a victorious advance."

HEARD IN BULLER'S CAMP.

The Daily Telegraph has the following from Frere Camp, dated Saturday, January 6, 10:35 a.m.: "A very heavy bombardment went on at Ladysmith from daybreak until 8 this morning. It is believed an action was in progress, for musketry fire was also heard. It is possible the garrison was making a sortie, for the Boers at Colenso left the trenches and retired towards Ladysmith."

THE ASSAULT EXPECTED.

London, Jan. 8.—The Times publishes a despatch from Ladysmith, dated January 1, recording two night movements on the part of the Boers to assault the town. These had to be abandoned when the British defences were reached, but the correspondent says it was apparent that the great attack would not be long delayed.

"Loyally supported by the civilians, the garrison can hold out for a considerable period. We are not yet reduced to half rations. The greatest difficulty is perhaps accommodations for the wounded and sick."

DORDRECHT AND COLESBERG.

British Retire From Former Position but Command the Latter Boers' Trophies for Pretoria.

Lorenzo Marques, Thursday, Jan. 4.—A despatch from the Boers' headquarters near Dordrecht says: "The British have been compelled to retreat from Dordrecht. Fighting is continuous around Colesberg, where the British occupy some of the outside kopjes. Bullets are dropping inside the town. Fifteen were wounded. They are being attended by us, with the help of Dr. Bearne, an English physician. The horses, oxen, mules and flour taken from the prisoners have been sent to Pretoria by way of Vryburg."

KURUMAN'S SURRENDER.

Pretoria, Thursday, Jan. 4.—(Via Lorenzo Marques)—Field Cornet Visser, under date of Tuesday, January 2, reports as follows:

"Kuruman, British Bechuanaland.—I commenced a bombardment of Kuruman yesterday (Monday) morning, aiming at the police barracks. The night lasted until 6 in the evening, when the garrison surrendered, issuing from the forts and yielding up arms. We took 20 prisoners, including Capt. Bates and Capt. Dennison, Mr. Hilliard, the magistrate, and eight other officers. We also captured 70 natives, together with a number of rifles and revolvers and plenty of ammunition."

THE FILIPINOS' STRUGGLE.

Americans Indict Severe Loss in Engagement in Which They Also Suffer.

Manila, Jan. 7.—A reconnaissance out of Umus, Cavite province, this morning resulted in the loss of 3 Americans killed and 20 wounded. The enemy's loss is estimated at 60 killed and 80 wounded. Col. Birkhamer, with a battalion of the Twenty-eighth volunteer infantry, advanced toward Novales. Major Taggart, with two battalions of the same regiment, moved to Perpetua. A part of the Fourth infantry was engaged south of Imus.

Billiard and Pool Tables—Clarence.

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1900.

Published by

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Co.,
Limited Liability.

No. 27 Broad Street Victoria, B.C.
W. H. ELLIS, Manager.

THE WAR.

The First Suffolk Regiment seems to have transgressed the rules of caution so far observed by Gen. French's column, and as a result seventy men have been taken prisoners, not a very serious loss, indeed, but it somewhat mars the exceptional record which has been made in the advance between Naauwpoort and Colesberg. We think the report of this incident disposes of the persistent rumors that French has entered Colesberg, although as dates are lacking in every instance, it is not very easy to speak with certainty on this point.

Some anxiety will naturally be felt at the delay in receiving further news from Ladysmith since the report that an attack had been made in force at Caesars camp. This camp is situated a few miles south of Ladysmith, and is doubtless the outermost post of the garrison. If this attack has been repulsed, Ladysmith will probably be able to take care of itself as long as will be necessary, for it surely cannot be long before we are able to dislodge Toubert from his position on the Tugela.

Our despatches this morning give a reasonable explanation of Gen. Buller's long inactivity. Since he has made no demonstration in force during the last forty-eight hours, it is to be presumed that he believes none is necessary in order to draw the enemy off from Ladysmith. It is said that several battles may be necessary in order to ascertain the enemy's position, which is evidently most admirably selected for the purpose of checking an advance.

The impression seems to be growing that we will shortly obtain possession of Delagoa Bay. If it becomes necessary to take that position against the will of Portugal, in order to prevent it being used as a base of supply by the enemy, it will have to be done, and we think it would be easy to justify such a course in the eyes of the world. With Delagoa Bay in our possession, an invasion of the Transvaal by an unprotected route would be possible.

Mr. Prentice reached town last night. He has more eyes directed towards him today than any other man in British Columbia.

There was a government caucus last night, at which it is understood that Mr. Speaker Forster was present. The house should ascertain if this is correct, for the people of the country would like to know to what depth of degradation parliamentary government in this province is being reduced.

Mr. Macpherson feels that he is in an embarrassing position. He gives out without much coaxing that he does not want to vote with Mr. Martin, because the latter is working for the present in harmony with Mr. Dunsmuir. Nevertheless he is pledged to a representative body in Vancouver to vote against the government on the Deadman's Island question. Mr. Macpherson would be very wise to keep his pledges, and let the consequences take care of themselves. He is not responsible for what will take place after a government defeat. What will happen then is a matter that no one is wise enough to foretell.

Letters to the Editor

CIVIC TAXATION.

Sir:—There exists a feeling of dissatisfaction amongst a large class of real estate holders on account of heavy taxation on their property. This feeling is so extensive at the present time in Victoria that, I doubt not, the candidates for aldermanic honors, who recognize it on their platforms will take advantage of a wave likely to land them at the desired point. To reduce taxation means a corresponding reduction in expenditure, and this a little prudence and some determination can accomplish. Of the coming candidates there are some equal to the occasion of carrying out efficiency with economy to a successful issue. Let them announce a spirit to try it, and the support of the voters will not be wanting.

It would benefit the heavily taxed citizens if those civic heads of offices who have little to do and deputies to help them were paid according to the services rendered. The less work some of the gentlemen have to do the more varied are the titles of office invented to show the ratepayers how indispensable are their positions. It is hoped that no more such positions will be created. Seeing that a large outlay has been spent on the streets during each of the past 10 years, half the usual annual outlay would suffice this year. Again the practice of depleting the civic treasury at the bidding of each new council to begin business by borrowing money is not only poor economy, but it is culpable extravagance. The civic board by offering a discount to taxpayers could easily arrange to collect taxes every month up to October next.

TAXPAYER.

AN OPEN LETTER

To Mayor Redfern, Aldermen Beckwith, Stewart, Brydon, Cameron and Humphrey.

Gentlemen:—In the Colonist of December 22 last I addressed a communication to you on behalf of other ratepayers, asking for certain information in regard to the Point Roberts & Chilliwack Railway by-law, which you are supporting. As you have failed to take any notice of the said communication, I have again been requested to remind you that the

information has not as yet been received. Are you in possession of the information asked for in said letter? If so, what is your object in not giving it to the public? If you have not the said information in your possession, then why do you support a proposition which is not feasible, and is "wild-cat" on the face of it?

Your silence in this matter can only be construed in one way, and that is that you are endeavoring to have the city enter into an agreement without knowing the terms thereof. Yours truly,

W. McDONALD,
North Park Street.

WAR NOTES.

A native runner between Kuruman and Mafeking, in taking a quill despatch through, was caught by the Boers. They searched him from head to foot, but found nothing, and let him go. The wily Kaffir had rammed the despatch up his nose.

At Kimberley hundreds of colored youngsters watch for the Boer shells. As soon as they see the smoke of the discharge they lie down flat, and when the shell has pitched they make a rush to the spot to collect the pieces. It is a most humorous sight.

To prevent the prisoners at Pretoria from escaping, the guns from one of the neighboring forts have been brought down and trained on the race course, while a Maxim is mounted at the entrance. After dark a searchlight from a neighboring kopje plays upon the prison yard.

When the Boers entered Griquatown they found the washerwomen busy over the magistrate's clothes. A bright idea struck them, and they commanded the women to wash their clothes instead. This the loyal washerwomen refused to do. In revenge the Boers threw the magistrate's linen into the river.

The New York Times says: "England stood by us; let's stand by her. Let's give her our sympathy and good wishes. The envious and watchful powers knew she was our friend a year ago; let all the world know now that we are hers."

Many of the Magerfontein wounded, though without food and water for 24 hours, would only wet their lips at the ambulance-bearers' bottles, knowing that the supply of water was insufficient for the needs of the force.

"If the Victoria Cross were granted for each case of conspicuous gallantry at Magerfontein," says a correspondent with Metchen, "it would be necessary to distribute them by hundreds, for never in the history of war have so many acts of individual heroism been achieved."

A letter received from a naval officer who was standing by when Commander Egerton, of the Towerfort, had his legs blown off, says: "Egerton was a very keen cricketer, and his last words were, 'That's put an end to my cricket.' He lit a cigarette and calmly smoked as he was carried away on a stretcher."

TRADE WITH THE TRANSVAAL.

Keen Interest of the United States in the Future of Delagoa Bay.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The seizure of Portuguese East Africa by England and the closing of Delagoa Bay to commerce would mean something to the United States. It would shut up the only entrance to the Transvaal and the Orange Free State now available to the United States mails and United States exports for these two countries. At the present mail communication between the United States and the Transvaal Republic and the Orange Free State is said by the post office department in Washington to be uninterrupted.

Col. Brooke, superintendent of foreign mails, said to-day that mail for the Transvaal and the Orange Free State goes out on every mail steamer, which leaves the port of New York for Europe. A steamer carrying the United States mail arrives at the port of Lorenzo Marques about once a week. These steamers are foreign vessels, but the United States mail pouches are inviolable. Any tampering with them, even by a nation at war, would not be tolerated. As long as Portuguese East Africa is neutral territory, any interference with United States mails or United States goods (not contraband of war) bound for the Transvaal would be an offence demanding vigorous protest. If Great Britain should seize Portuguese East Africa, in order to aid her operations against the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and the seizure should be recognized by the United States as justifiable, such recognition would carry with it acknowledgment of Great Britain's right to stop the United States mails and commerce destined for the two republics with which Great Britain is now at war.

From some figures which have been obtained from the bureau of statistics, it will be seen that the shutting off of trade between the United States and the two South African republics would be a more serious matter to the business interests of this country than probably has been imagined, except by those in a position to have some knowledge of the value of this trade. The total imports of the Transvaal for 1897 are estimated by the bureau of statistics, in an official publication, to have been \$21,510,000, of which \$17,012,000 were from Great Britain, \$2,747,000 from Germany, and the rest from France, Belgium and Holland. The United States trade with the Transvaal, figured in our money, was, therefore, nearly \$14,000,000 in the year 1897. There is every reason to believe that it was more in 1898 and 1899, as there has been an increase in the exports of the United States generally.

The trade which the United States would lose by the shutting in of the Transvaal Republic would be but a few millions short of the trade of the Philippine islands with the entire world during the year preceding the declaration of war with Spain. The Philippine import trade is estimated at about \$20,000,000 a year. Among the articles imported by the Transvaal may be mentioned steel, animals, jewelry and objects of art, wood, coffee, wagons and carriages, machinery, cereals and flour, iron and articles of iron, clothing, leather and articles of leather, and railway materials. In view of the seizures of American flour in Delagoa Bay by the British, it will be interesting to know that the flour importations of the Transvaal for the year 1897 amounted to \$5,211,000. A considerable part of this is said to be American flour. The Transvaal also imports a large amount of beer from the United States.

The total imports of the Orange Free State for the year 1897 amounted to \$5,904,063. Of this there was justly credited to the United States a proportion similar to the proportion of the

whole trade of the Transvaal which fell to this country.

If the alleged plans of Great Britain to seize Portuguese East Africa and close Delagoa Bay to commerce in order to shut off supplies from the Transvaal and the Orange Free State should take definite shape, a storm of protests from the business interests of the United States which would be affected by this action might be expected, and from this agitation any Boer sympathy in this country would undoubtedly gain in force.

WHAT SOUTH AFRICA IS.

A Vast Plateau, 6,000 Feet Above the Sea—Bird's-Eye View Showing the Lay of the Land.

Allen Saagree contributes to Ainslee's for January an article on South Africa. This is how the country appeared to him:

"You land in South Africa at the foot of a mountain 3,600 feet high. They call it Table mountain, and the veil of mist that, excepting on very clear days, overhangs it, South Africans are pleased to term the 'Tablecloth.' Presenting a front of solid rock 1,000 feet in height, perpendicular as a wall, and for half a mile on top quite level, this mountain offers the best natural sign-board on earth. Time and again have English firms attempted with fabulous sums to secure it for advertising purposes, but as yet there has been no such defacement."

"Table mountain marks the tip end of the Dark Continent. Below it nestles the city of Cape Town, a beautiful bay stretching out in the foreground. On the west the mountain breaks off abruptly, and the railroad skirts about it to the interior. On the east it slopes off into a hilly, picturesque formation known as the 'Lion's Back,' and then gradually rises into the Drakensburg mountains. This is the only great mountain range south of the Zambesi, and by noting its location, one may understand in a trice just what South Africa is geographically."

"Steaming along the east coast from Cape Colony northward, you have the Drakensburg in view nearly all the way to Beira, a distance of 2,000 miles. In Cape Colony and Natal the mountains in many places dip to the water's edge, and with a field glass one may see on their crags and peaks smoke curling from the native villages. In Portuguese territory the mountains recede slightly from the coast, and at Delagoa Bay there is an intervening stretch of lowland 20 miles wide. At Beira this has increased to 60 miles. At the Zambesi the Drakensburg ends."

"To get into the interior of South Africa from any of the five east coast landing places, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, Delagoa Bay and Beira, one must first cross a short extent of lowland, and then ascend steep mountains. Having arrived there the traveller is conscious of little or no descent, five-sixths of the whole interior being a vast plateau that extends to the Zambesi on the north, the Atlantic ocean on the west and varies in altitude from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above the sea level."

"A fringe of tropical country, where bloom the magnolia and the rose, where flourish the orange, pineapple, lemon, guano, grape, banana, the cotton and the tea plant; a long stretch of mountains running parallel with the Indian ocean, the highest peaks of which are capped with snow, and in whose valleys wave tracks of wheat and corn; a vast prairie, dotted here and there with patches of scrub woodland, mission stations, and immense farms with millions of sheep and cattle grazing thereon; a few thousand hamlets scattered like oases over a great landscape, made black by the native Africans who live in thatched huts and wear but a breech cloth; a dozen large towns where is heard the clang of the American trolley car and the clatter of the police patrol, and about which men cluster as flies gather to a jar of sweets; the remnants of a once mighty zoological garden, including many leopards, beautiful and lithe, baboons, antelope, jackals and crocodiles, a less number of hippopotami and a few herds of buffalo, elephants and giraffe, some iron ore, some coal, some copper, and a little silver; 40 miles of gold and 100 acres of diamonds. That is South Africa."

A TIMELY FABLE.

Said a friend to the farmer: "If your hired man had served you well for a year, would you keep him for another year?" "Yes." "And if he gave satisfaction the second year, would you retain him a third?" "Yes." "And if he served you well the third year, would you keep him a fourth?" "Well, not if he thought he owned the farm."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Edward F. Bigelow, editor of Popular Science, a well-known specialist in nature study, is to conduct a department of "Nature and Science for Young Folks" in St. Nicholas, and will answer all the questions children ask him. Another new departure is the St. Nicholas League, an organization of young people wherein prizes are offered for the best compositions, drawings, photographs, etc. St. Nicholas will give unusual attention to educational objects in 1900. The January number will contain an illustrated article describing the work done in Washington in "Out-of-Door Schools," where classes study plants and animals, government, geography, science and art in the parks, museums and public buildings.

BROTHERHOOD.

Men of the Saxon race,
Men nearest to God's face
Of all your kind,
Rouse ye to nobler ways
And upward lift your gaze;
The things of other days
Leave far behind.

God's chosen of the earth,
In you the thoughts have birth
That make for peace.
Bid all the nations now
To Truth and Justice bow;
Blind wreaths on Freedom's brow;
Bid wars to cease.

He who all times fore-knows
Intrusts the world to you,
And hopes are large;
Be brave, be true, be strong;
Strike down each wrong;
Speed, speed the right along—
Accept your charge.

Oh, ye most favored men,
In you Christ lives again,
To reign with power,
Now shall the poor be blessed,
And all the earth's oppressed
Behold their ill redressed;
'Tis God's great hour.

No sterner sons of right
How awful is your might,
Knit heart to heart!
Others shall march no more;
Others shall manhood lose;
But ye God's path shall choose,
Nor from it part.

In the grand English tongue,
Shall your renown be sung
Throughout all time,
Yours were the minds to plan,
Yours were the hearts to begin
A brotherhood of man—
That work sublime.

—F. P. Williams.

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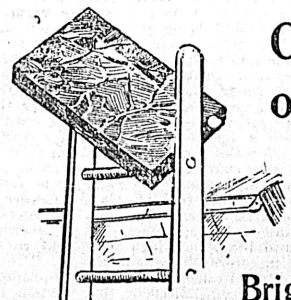
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On the reverse side of this map is a large Map of the World on Mercator's projection. This enables the reader to follow the movements of the Navy from all parts of the World.

Maps of the Philippine Islands

AND A DETAILED

Map of the Island of Luzon

where the war is on between the United States and Filipinos are also shown, thus giving all necessary information of the location of the war in the Philippines.

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Interesting Details of Pay Gold
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and Quartz.

Government's Policy Hindrance
to Development—Some
Timely Suggestions.

From an Atlin Correspondent.

While every part of British Columbia is attracting notice, Atlin, although somewhat disappointing to many last season, it yet deserves of special attention. There is no denying the fact that it did disappoint many people last season—and why? Was it because there was no precious metal to be found in paying quantities, or was it from other reasons? True there were many claims that did not prove to be profitable ones, as there are in every camp that has ever been discovered. But among the main features of the detriment to the prosperity of the camp were:

The policy of the government. I do not mean to be hard on them, but I do mean to say that their policy has not been a good one for that camp.

First the alien law was passed suddenly and unjustly—passed without considering the effects and hardships that it would have on the miners in that place. Men who had pulled hand-sleighs up the Stikine river to Glenora and packed their supplies to Teslin and hand-sleighed from Teslin to Atlin, over an unbroken country (a hardship that many of you realize what it is) found when they reached Atlin—and not before—that they, after spending a year in travel, were, despite the fact that they had a license, denied the right to locate placer ground in British Columbia.

Secondly, in Atlin, as in all new mining camps, there were many disputed claims, which necessitated the arrival of a supreme court judge to decide. The Hon. Justice Irving was sent up, true, but not until late in the season, consequently men were not able to get to work on these disputed claims until late in the year, after high water.

Many other complaints can be made, such as the delay in the sale of town lots, the granting of records of the same claim to as many individuals as wished to apply, thereby giving several titles to different persons for the same claim.

Going up Pine creek might be seen as many as 15 posts in the ground, each claiming the whole or some part of the ground. One group quite noticeable was tied together, and on one post was written: "In unity there is strength," on another "United we stand, divided we fall."

Many people positively assert that Atlin is no good, but such, as has been shown by the output, is not so. Pine creek, rising in Surprise lake, flows westward into Atlin lake in almost a straight line. Gold was first discovered here nearly ten years ago, but was not considered to be in paying quantities, and it was not until last year that Messrs. Miller, McKinnon and McLaren, from Juneau, located the discovery, a claim which has proved to be one of the most profitable ones on Pine creek, under the excellent management of Fritz Miller. This claim was worked night and day during the summer and realized the owners \$25,000 in dust, clear of all expenses.

Just below discovery, Harrigan, a blacksmith, took out over \$20,000 in two months from two bench claims on the south side of the creek. Chase and Hollie, Col. Steele, Joe Blanchall, Wallace, Tenant, McKay and others, all discovered, did very well. Above discovery the run of gold is divided between Willow, Pine and Nugget Point, and is very evenly distributed over these three places.

One of the finest pieces of property on Pine creek is that known as the Caledonia group of bench claims, owned by Irving, Monroe, Wilson and Nelson. Many of the claims on Willow and Nugget Point proved themselves to be good payers, but owing to the want of water the owners were unable to work them during the greater part of the season. Thanks to the energy of C. W. D. Clifford, the constructor and owner of a flume upwards of half a mile in length, water was procured for the working of many claims. Boulder creek, rising in the mountains north of Surprise lake, flows into Surprise lake near the outlet. Boulder was for some time considered to be of no value, but such was not the case, as was soon shown. Speaking to Mr. Jones, of Rant & Jones, Atlin, I asked them how they were doing. He said: "We have No. 5 below discovery, and began work just seven weeks ago, and have taken out over 300 ounces, with not \$1,000 expenses, including all opening up work. I believe," said Mr. Jones, "that from about 5 above discovery to say 20 below the claims will average from \$5,000 to \$7,000 gross. The claims are easily worked, being from five to eight feet deep."

Wright creek, called after the discoverer, flows into Surprise lake from the south and has well held its own with other gold producers.

Otter and Birch have as yet not proven to be rich for hand sluicing, but as hydraulic creeks, from all indications, will be very profitable investments. Spruce creek, although small, is very long and drains a large amount of country, finding its way into Pine creek below the falls and about two miles from the mouth. Where bedrock has been reached the majority of the claims have paid good wages. What is needed on Spruce creek is a combination of claims and working by other means.

Next, but not by any means least, comes McKee creek, so called after Robert McKee, the man who in October, 1898, after many hardships, located a discovery on the creek. A hardened old prospector is Robert McKee, and an interesting one too, when he tells of old trips when short of provisions and other hardships. When asked how he managed to discover the creek, he said: "Well, after prospecting all the other creeks, I could not find anything that was not already staked, so I began to look for new ground, and it was not long before I came on to this creek, which I found had already been prospected; but nothing discouraged, I began work, and soon discovered gold in paying quantities, but being short of provisions, I did not return, but went out to Bennett for more supplies." With McKee, on his return, came Robert Black, who also located the discovery; also Guiraca and Mourot, who had their choice of ground above discovery and chose to locate between 30 and 35 above, now known as the Wimmenequa Mining Co.'s ground, and owned by Rant & Jones, Guiraca and

Mourot. From results obtained this year, it has proven itself to be among the best ground on McKee creek.

Ben James, locator of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 above discovery, is the possessor of some very good property. Ben stayed in all last winter prospecting and working his claims, and is without doubt the best posted man on the creek. Above discovery we come to the Victoria group of claims, owned by Langley, Brogan, Rant & Jones, McKinnon and others, which were worked with excellent results last season, and now under sale to some English company.

Without question, one of the finest properties for hydraulic working consists of 25 claims from 40 to 65 above discovery, owned by Rant & Jones, of Atlin. The ground is from 5 to 12 feet deep, and from extensive prospecting has been shown to be very rich, and it worked properly should yield the owners enormous returns.

QUARTZ PROPERTIES.

The question is often asked by outsiders are there any good quartz properties in that country? It would be hard to say what time will prove, but from present indications I feel justified in saying that we have every reason to believe that we have some good quartz properties. Low, Ernest, Hamill and others, justified in paying a large sum for the Anacuenda property, which lies just to the south of Atlin town, and from numerous assays the manager feels justified in ordering a stamp mill for the coming year. Atlin, as a townsite, cannot be beaten for scenery and sanitary situation.

In conclusion, for the benefit of prospectors in that northern country, I would like to suggest to the government that the size of claims be increased to at least 250 feet in length, and some clearly defined width, thereby saving many disputes; also that some means be taken to prevent a number of records being issued for the same piece of ground.

It would be well, too, if suitable government buildings, instead of tents, be erected, as it is indeed hard for the clerks to do their work in a tent, with the thermometer ranging from 20 to 50 below zero.

Scarlet Fever Closes Schools

Vancouver's Health Inspector
Advises This Course as a
Precaution.

Bible Reading as Part of Daily
Course—Trades and
Labor Council.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Jan. 7.—Owing to the scarlet fever in certain sections of Vancouver, it has been necessary for the trustees to extend the holidays. This was done on the recommendation of Health Inspector Marion. The fever is of mild type and all the patients are doing well, but it was thought the safer course to keep the children from coming together until the disease had become less prevalent.

The trades and labor council recently sent to all those running for municipal honors a circular letter, asking the following queries: Do you approve of the union label on city goods? Are you in favor of barber shops being closed on Sunday? Do you approve of doing away with all qualifications in the matter of eligibility for the offices of mayor and aldermen? W. H. Wood's reply was satisfactory to the council, and the unions' support was pledged. The reply of Hugh B. Gilmour was also satisfactory, and the labor union pledged to support Mr. Gilmour for alderman in Ward One. These were the only two germane candidates who were supported. It was decided not to support Ald. Brown in the mayoralty contest, but in this, as in the case of all the other aldermanic candidates, the members will suit their individual inclinations. The letters of T. P. Neelds, Robert B. Skinner, J. P. Cleveland, W. J. McGuigan, T. S. Baxter and William Brown were not favorably considered. The following officers have been elected for the ensuing year: President, Joseph Dixon; vice-president, J. H. Watson; general secretary, D. C. Harrison; financial secretary, F. Williams; treasurer, C. R. Monck; statistician, W. Macleain.

A report was received to the effect that the fishermen were forming a union. Another stated that the Ross case, where the council had expressed themselves as not satisfied of the insanity of a man who had been sent to the asylum, fearing that the police desire to have the man put out of their way had something to do with his incarceration, was not yet settled. In the case of Mr. Harrison, the secretary of the council, who had been charged by the police with neglecting his children, this was believed to be police persecution and was not settled. It will be noted, however, that Mr. Harrison was re-elected secretary by acclamation. "Shenandoah" was a brilliant success. The opera house was crowded both nights. The local papers speak very highly of the performance. The company were called before the curtain several times in the third act.

F. M. Wetherthwaite, superintendent of city schools, has gone on record as approving of the reading of a passage in the Bible every day without comments, in the schools of the city.

HOW THE FLOWERS GROW.

Do you know, darling, how pansies grow?
God takes the first of the sun's glow,
The purple that floats on the mountain mist
The blush of a maid by her love first kissed
The blue that's asleep in the mid-day skies,
The brown that's love in the October
And he mingles them all in a flower; and so
That is the way that the pansies grow.

Do you know, darling, how lilies grow?
God takes the soul of the beautiful snow
And moulds it into a chalice sweet,
Pure and wonderful, fair, complete;
Then he takes the gold of my lady's hair
And sets it amid the whiteness there,
As in the night's white skies the bright
stars glow.

And that is the way that the lilies grow.

Do you know, darling, how roses grow?
Ah, that is the strangest of all I know.
For they are the fairest of all things fair,
The one perfect blossom, beyond compare;
Symbol of sweetness and loveliness—
God wished his children to comfort and
pleasure,
And he wrote the thought in a flower, and
so.

That is the way that the roses grow.
—A. J. Waterhouse.

Five hundred pairs of Lace Curtains in the very latest styles. The quality, design and price will suit all buyers. Weiler Bros.

SEAMEN'S EYESIGHT.

Practical Remarks Upon Merely Scientific Defects, With an Examination Antidote.

F. T. Bullen in London Leader.

There has been considerable stir made lately in scientific circles connected with shipping about the subject of seamen's eyesight. No doubt, the matter would be a most important one if any proof were forthcoming that color-blindness or short sight were occasionally found to be responsible for collisions at sea. But I am afraid that this is just one of those cases of gear-straining and camel-swallowing that so often occur among us.

Among seamen generally the defect is so infrequently noticed that a man may go to sea all his life and never come across a single instance where a shipmate has mistaken a red light for a green one, and vice versa. My own experience is a limited one I know, only covering fifteen years, but I can honestly declare that I have met a man who has reported a starboard light for a port one, while as for short-sight, I do not see how a short-sighted man could continue to be a seaman. Perhaps some gentleman whose experience is limited to theory can explain it.

In any case, I will admit that color-blindness is so grave a defect in a seaman, that no rules can be too stringent for the prevention of any man suffering from it being placed in a position where his mistake in the hue of the lights shown by an approaching vessel may cause the loss of life and property.

But, as matters are now, only officers coming up for examination for coast-guard or higher grade have the sight test applied, and that in a way that, while it satisfies scientific men, is, I think, needlessly cruel to seamen who have spent the best years of their life in qualifying for the position of master of a ship.

For there can be no doubt that vast numbers of people who are unable to match shades in wool or silk, who could not, for instance, distinguish between a peacock blue and ultra-marine, or cardinal red and magenta would have not the slightest difficulty in distinguishing any shade of red from any shade of green.

Never shall I forget when passing my examination for second mate the sight test, examination had then just been adopted, my examiner at the close of the preliminary canter on Saturday before going up on Monday, brought out a boxful of slips of glass.

Moving to a window, he held up one of these before the light and asked me what color it was. It was a brilliant blue, and I told him so. Without a word he held up another, to which I said chromo yellow. And so on for a dozen shades, all of which I named according to their tints, as violet, purple, crimson, mauve, pink, etc. Lastly he held up a clear piece, which I told him was colorless.

Then, turning to me, he said: "Well, all I've got to say is that if you answer the examiner like that on Monday, you'll fail to pass. Please to remember that there are only two colors in that box, red and green." I gasped for breath. Because up till then, I had believed that not only could I match any shades, but that I could remember a shade so well as to go to a shop without a pattern and bring back an exact match for the clerk's staff left at home. However, I saw that argument was useless—I was there to be examined anyhow—so I bottled up my amazement and in due time faced the examiner, not, however, before I had paid my fee, which (if I was correctly informed at the time) was a gross injustice, because, failing to pass the sight test, which was what I had really meant that you could go no further. You lost your money and your career was stopped.

However, I went before the examiner, and in solemn silence he held up a piece of yellow glass. The struggle in my mind to decide whether it should be called, according to the Colney Hatch rule I had recently learned, red or green was almost maddening.

Finally, I made a plunge and moaned out "green." The examiner turned slightly so as to get a glimpse of my face, and held up a piece of pink glass. "Red," said I, quite cheerfully. This a blue. "Green," I cried, feeling that this was famous. Then came a clear piece, and with a sigh of relief I said "clear."

Upon this the examiner turned to me and said, "Yours is the most extraordinary case of color-blindness I have ever met. You seem to think that there are only two colors in existence, red and green. It is true that they are the important ones at sea, but when a man says that yellow is green I can't help saying that I have no confidence in his ability to distinguish any one color from another."

And with that he reached for a form and dipped his pen into the ink. Now, like the great majority of seamen, I had a most awful reverence for Board of Trade officials, and the idea of questioning their decisions never entered my head, but my whole life, I felt, was at stake now, so I moistened my crackling lips and said, "May I say a word in explanation, please?" I was heaped ungraciously. "Well, what is it?"

"Then I told him of my teaching and of my struggles with my own sense of color. He turned to the box again, and this time I sailed through with flying colors. I know that this will sound to most people like a piece of extravagant fiction, but it is literally true."

Now to have anything like a just treatment of this question, the sight test should be applied to all youths wishing to commence a sea life. Where is the sense of allowing a lad to take a profession with a physical disability which he himself may only discover when he has spent some of the most useful years of his life in preparation for the paying branches of that profession?

It is true that not many seamen nowadays can hope to become officers; but why should it be admissible to have a color-blind or short-sighted man on the lookout for, and not at or amidst ships? But the test need not be made so complicated and severe as it is.

If a man can distinguish between a red and green railway signal light at a distance of a mile on a reasonably clear night, there can be no earthly excuse for refusing him a certificate even though he couldn't match trimming for a dress to save his immortal soul. There are the flags, it is true, but in them only the primary colors are used, and in the commercial world of signals the changes are rung upon red, blue, yellow, and white. Among foreign national flags there is a little more variety of color, it is true, but not sufficient to give any trouble.

I cannot help in conclusion going even further, and saying that I do not believe it has ever been found that two men, one on the lookout and another on the bridge, have both been color-blind to the extent of mistaking a green starboard light for a red port one at the same time, so that the lookout man has called out, "A green light on the starboard bow, sir," when it was a red one, and the officer has replied cheerfully, "All right," making the same blunder holding his course, and running the other ship down. She, of course, would be keeping steadily on her way, according to the rule of the road: "When two steamers are crossing (red opposite to green, or vice versa) so as to involve risk of collision, that vessel shall give way which has the other on her starboard side." No, there are other matters of far greater import than the sight question that are clamoring loudly for attention.

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